

Indian Maritime University Hosts Research and Development Conclave to Propel Maritime Sector Innovation

The Indian Maritime University (IMU) successfully organized a Research and Development (R&D) Conclave at IIT Madras Research Park, bringing together key stakeholders to address critical challenges in the maritime industry. The event, inaugurated by Dr. Radhakrishna G Pillai, Professor In-Charge at the IIT Madras Research Park, aimed to foster collaboration and innovation in the maritime sector.

The conclave witnessed participation from prominent organizations, including the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Visakhapatnam Port Authority, VO Chidambaranar Port, Deendayal Port, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), and Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

The primary objective of the event was to identify and discuss real-life problem statements in the maritime sector. Dr. Malini V. Shankar, Vice Chancellor of IMU, emphasized the growing need for research in maritime fields, underlining that IMU provides an ideal ecosystem for fostering innovation and advancements which is crucial for the industry.

In his welcome address, Dr. Rajoo Balaji provided the strategic framework for the conclave, stressing the importance of establishing a Maritime Knowledge Cluster. This cluster, he explained, would be dedicated to solving specific issues faced by the sector, fostering collaboration among institutions, ports, and related agencies to accelerate problem-solving.

The Conclave identified a few areas of study to pursue. The topics included improvement in ports efficiency, supply chain management, vessel designs for inland waterways, ocean energy potential and offshore engineering structures, valuation of ships and their assets etc.

Following the day-long Conclave, a significant discussion took place with Ms. K. Siva Soundaravalli, Additional Commissioner of Industries and Commerce, and her team from the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu. While highlighting the issues of supply chain connectivity, the viability of engaging Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tamil Nadu with the maritime sector was also voiced. Mr. Harikrishnan, Executive Director, Cochin Shipyard Ltd., provided valuable insights into areas where Tamil Nadu-based vendors could supply to meet the needs of the shipping sector.

This conclave marks a significant step forward in uniting academia, government, and industry to drive research, innovation, and growth in the maritime sector, with particular focus on creating opportunities for local vendors in the MSME sector.





